

# Milestones

1938

Diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic estrogen, first prescribed to supplement a pregnant woman's natural estrogen production.

1940's-1950's

DES prescription expanded nationally through medical publications and physician communication about its therapeutic value and administration.

*Smith OW et al., American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

1953

DES found to be **not effective** in preventing miscarriages and premature birth, but continued to be prescribed.

*Dieckmann WJ et al., American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

1971

DES found to be **not safe**...linked to rare vaginal cancer in young DES Daughters.

*Herbst AL et al., New England Journal of Medicine*

1974

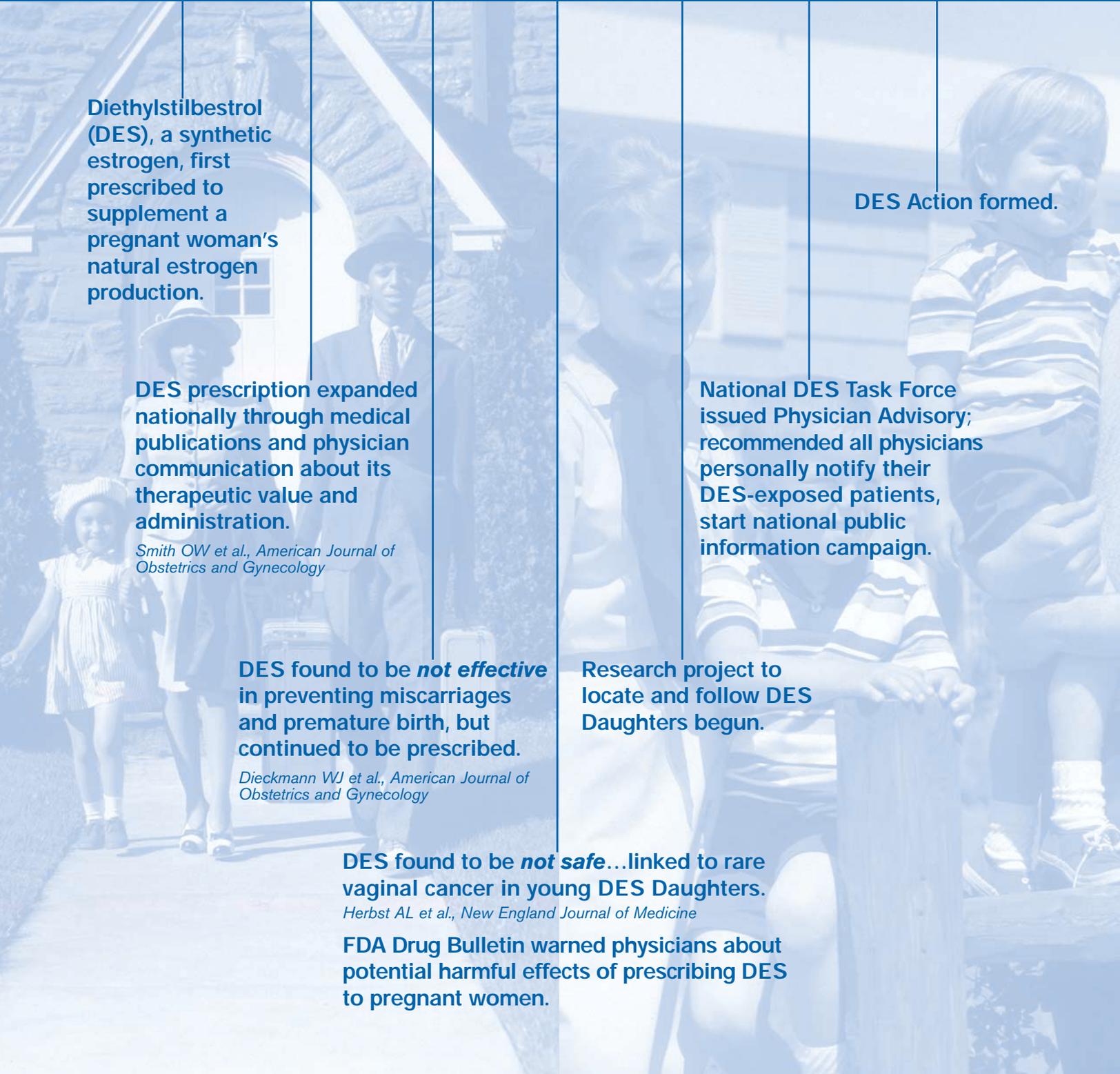
Research project to locate and follow DES Daughters begun.

1978

National DES Task Force issued Physician Advisory; recommended all physicians personally notify their DES-exposed patients, start national public information campaign.

1979

DES Action formed.



# in DES History

1980

**DES Mothers study begun.**

1982

**DES Cancer Network formed.**

1985

**DES Sons Network formed.**

1992

**National workshop on long-term effects of exposure to DES held.**

**DES Combined Cohort Study examined long-term risk for cancer and other adverse effects.**

1993-1997

**5 Regional Pilot Studies conducted for DES Education Campaign.**

1999

**National DES Research Conference held.**

2003

**CDC's DES Update...national education program for consumers and health care providers launched.**

